

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 DPW-01 AID-05 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 L-02 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-02

USIA-15 /081 W

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R 020922Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

13TH ADVON UDORN

USSAG NAKOHN PHANOM

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS BANGKOK 5469

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR, TH. US

SUBJECT: CHATCHAI ON U.S. FORCES IN THAILAND

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE

MARCH 31. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS

REMARKS ON U.S. FORCES IN THAILAND.

REPORTER: HAS AGREEMENT BEEN REACHED FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO BE
STARTED THIS WEEK ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY FORCES?

CHATCHAI: NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE HELD. THERE IS NO CHANGE
WHATSOEVER IN REGARD TO THAT.

REPORTER: WHEN WILL THEY BE STARTED:

CHATCHAI I CAN'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION YET. I AM WAITING
FOR THE AMERICAN SIDE, AND WHENEVER IT IS READY WE WILL HOLD
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MEETINGS WE HAVE ALWAYS ENDEAVORED FOR THEM TO BE

WITHDRAWN BUT NOW WE ARE NOT CON-
CENTRATING ON WITHDRAWALS OF MILITARY FORCES ONLY.
WE WILL NOT LET THEM CARRY ON ANY ACTIVITIES BEYOND LIMITS
IN AGREEMENTS OR UNDER EXISTING COMMITMENTS. FOR INSTANCE
THERE ARE NO COMMITMENTS OR ANY AGREEMENT FOR PATROLS TO BE
CARRIED ON ANYWHERE EXCEPT OVER INDOCHINA. BUT NO PATROLS
CAN BE CARRIED OUT OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN.

CHATCHAI THE MANPOWER OF OUR ARMED FORCES IS SUFFI-
CIENT BUT OUR WEAPONS ARE NOT. MOST OF OUR WEAPONS ARE
TOTALLY OUTDATED, AND WE NEED MUCH MORE MODERN AND UP-TO-
DATE WEAPONS.

REPORTER: BUT WHEN BASES ARE WITHDRAWN. COULD 'T WE
ASK FOR THE WEAPONS THAT ARE IN THEM?

CHATCHAI IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO
BE HELD. THIS GOVERNMENT TOOK OVER ITS DUTIES ONLY A FEW
DAYS AGO. IT HAS'T HAD TIME TO REMEDY ALL THE PROBLEMS
IT IS FACED WITH DAILY.

MASTERS

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NNN

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05 JUL 2006

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To: STATE
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